Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
8/7/76

Mr. Gene Wilson FOIA appeal
FOIA/PA Coordinator
CIA
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Wilson,

The official mountain has labored, after a super-elephantine period of gestation, delivered itself of a mouse of information and informed me of further administrative relief available from you.

On July 31,1975 Acting Archivist Albert H. Leisinger,Jr., denied me access to certain information aboutnthe JFK assassination. I appealed. Under date of August 5,1976, Deputy Aregivist James O'Neill responded to my appeal by releasing some of this withheld information. I presume he has sent you a copy of his five-page letter. His reference to you and further administrative relief is on page 5, the penultimate paragraph.

My appeal is from the denial of "deletions on pages 17,20,77,86,92,95,97,98,100,101, 102, 104 and 106 od the Coleman-Slawson memorandum;deleted portions of Commission Document 708; "Memorandum for Record" by W. David Slawson drafted on April 21,1964;Commission Document 1551, and the face hsest of this document."

This is not the first declassification of portion of the Coleman-Slawson memo at my request. Having skimmed the pages I did receive today I find no reasonable basis for any classification at any time. I also find what appears to be non-compliance with the provisions of E.O. 11652. This is true of the previous releases, beginning with the entire and originally-withheld entire document.

Mr. O'Neill cites no declassification authority. These records were classified originally by the Commission, which had no such authority. When I was initially refused access I was told the CIA withheld them. In no case do I recall anything but conclusory statements. So I now ask, with the records available, for specifics. I want the records t hat show what was held to be properly classified or classifiable and what was subsequently held to be suitable for release, plus the basis in each case. I am aware of content the CIA might find embarrassing but I am not aware of any exemption under which this can be regarded as a basis for denial. In the past you have assigned all withholdings from me to Mr. Briggs. In this case I again ask for specific identification.

I find no citation of classification or withholding authority elsewhere in Mr. O'Neill's letter. A large if not exclusive CIA responsibility is apparent. I therefore appeal all of these denial to you herewith. With regard to these also I want all records having to do in any way with the legality of original classification and subsequent decisions and acts in any way relevant thereto.

Mr. O'Neill has a separate heading for "Item No. 9, Nosenko records of any kind still withheld." Under this he lists the Commission executive session of both 1/21 and 6/23/64, noting also that i "have a suit under way at the present time" for them. I makes a separate request with regard to these two transcripts for use in this litigation. By way of explanation, although I had been confident of it and had inquired, I was initially refused information that any transcript related to Nosenko. This was under oath and with the invocation of the national-security exemption. The record is now clear that with regard to the June 23 transcript this was spurious. The record is also clear in a multitude of cases that there has not been a single legitimate national-security claim. Now I am told that the January 21 transcript is also Nosenko-related. I therefore ask for any and all relevant records with regard to these withholdings, including but not limited to the records made by or relating to the classifying authority.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg